

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for managing orders placed at an electronic commerce site, the method comprising:

receiving, from the electronic commerce site, at least an indication of a purchase order originated by a buyer;

converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to a buyer-native-format purchase order; and

electronically providing the buyer-native-format purchase order to the buyer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving at least an indication of the purchase order comprises:

receiving an indication of the purchase order through an order acknowledgement form.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the converting comprises:

converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to a neutral-format purchase order; and

converting the neutral-format purchase order to the buyer-native-format purchase order.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the converting further comprises:

retrieving a first translation map, wherein the first translation map corresponds to the electronic commerce site and wherein the first translation map is useable for converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to the neutral-format purchase order; and

retrieving a second translation map, wherein the second translation map corresponds to the buyer and wherein the second translation map is useable for converting the neutral-format purchase order to the buyer-native-format purchase order.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, from the electronic commerce site, an order acknowledgement corresponding to the received at least an indication of a purchase order;

converting the order acknowledgement to a buyer-native-format order acknowledgement; and

electronically providing the buyer-native-format order acknowledgement to the buyer.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, from the electronic commerce site, an invoice corresponding to the received at least an indication of a purchase order;

converting the invoice to a buyer-native-format invoice; and

electronically providing the buyer-native-format invoice to the buyer.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to a supplier-native-format purchase order; and

electronically providing the supplier-native-format purchase order to the supplier;
wherein the supplier is associated with the electronic commerce site.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a response document associated with the provided supplier-native-format purchase order;

converting the received response document to a neutral format;

converting the neutral format of the response document to a buyer-specific format;

electronically providing the buyer-native-format of the response document to the buyer.

9. A method for managing orders placed at a document collection system, the method comprising:

providing a purchase order to an order collection system;

receiving, from a data manager, a buyer-native-format purchase order, wherein the buyer-native-format purchase order is the product of a conversion between a first format and a buyer-native-format; and

integrating the received buyer-native-format purchase order into a backend system associated with the buyer.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

providing at least an indication of the purchase order from the electronic commerce site to a data manager.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to the buyer-native-format purchase order; and

electronically providing the buyer-native-format purchase order to the buyer

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the converting comprises:

converting the at least an indication of the purchase order to a neutral-format purchase order; and

converting the neutral-format purchase order to the buyer-native-format purchase order.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the providing the purchase order comprises:
providing the purchase order to a web site.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of providing the purchase order comprises:
providing the purchase order to an electronic marketplace portal.
15. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a buyer-native-format order acknowledgement, wherein the buyer-native-format order acknowledgement is the product of a conversion between an electronic-commerce-site-format order acknowledgement and a buyer-native-format order acknowledgement; and
integrating the received buyer-native-format order acknowledgement into the backend system associated with the buyer.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving a buyer-native-format invoice, wherein the buyer-native-format invoice is the product of a conversion between an electronic-commerce-site-format invoice and a buyer-native-format invoice; and
integrating the received buyer-native-format invoice into a backend system associated with the buyer.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein the receiving, from a data manager, a buyer-native-format purchase order, comprises:

receiving, from a data manager integrated with the electronic commerce site, a buyer-native-format purchase order.

18. The method of claim 9, wherein the receiving, from a data manager, a buyer-native-format purchase order, comprises:

receiving, from a data manager independent from the electronic commerce site, a buyer-native-format purchase order.

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19. A method for managing data provided at a document collection system, the method comprising:

receiving at least an indication of a document originated by a originating party;
and

forwarding the at least an indication of the document to a data manager to thereby enable the data manager to:

converting the at least an indication of the document to a originating party-native-format purchase order; and

electronically providing the originating party-native-format purchase order to the originating party.

20. A method for managing data provided to a document collection system, the method comprising:

receiving at least an indication of a document originated by an originating party;
and

forwarding the at least an indication of the document to a data manager to thereby enable the data manager to:

convert the at least an indication of the document to a neutral-format document; and

convert the neutral-format document to the originating party-native-format document; and

electronically provide the originating party-native-format purchase order to the originating party.

21. A method for managing a document provided to a document collection system, the method comprising:

receiving, from the order collection system, at least an indication of a document originated by an originating party;

converting the at least an indication of the document to a originating party-native-format document; and

electronically providing the originating party-native-format document to the originating party.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the converting comprises:

converting the at least an indication of the document to a neutral-format document; and

converting the neutral-format document to the originating party-native-format document.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the converting further comprises:

retrieving a first translation map, wherein the first translation map corresponds to the electronic commerce site and wherein the first translation map is useable for converting the at least an indication of the document to the neutral-format document;

retrieving a second translation map, wherein the second translation map corresponds to the originating party and wherein the second translation map is useable for converting the neutral-format document to the originating party-native-format document;

converting the invoice to a originating party-native-format invoice; and

electronically providing the originating party-native-format invoice to the originating party.

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24. A system for managing documents provided to a document collection system, the system comprising:

at least a first processor;

at least a first storage device connected to the at least a first processor; and

a plurality of instructions stored on the at least a first storage device, the plurality of instructions configured to cause the at least a first processor to:

receive, from the document collection system, at least an indication of a document originated by an originating party;

convert the at least an indication of the document to an originating party-native-format document; and

electronically provide the originating party-native-format document to the originating party.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to convert the at least an indication of the document by:

converting the at least an indication of the document to a neutral-format document; and

converting the neutral-format document to the originating party-native-format document.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to convert the at least an indication of the document by:

retrieving a first translation map, wherein the first translation map corresponds to the electronic commerce site and wherein the first translation map is useable for converting the at least an indication of the document to the neutral-format document;

retrieving a second translation map, wherein the second translation map corresponds to the originating party and wherein the second translation map is useable for converting the neutral-format document to the originating party-native-format document.

converting the invoice to an originating party-native-format invoice; and

electronically providing the originating party-native-format invoice to the originating party.

33. A system for facilitating an exchange of data, the system comprising:
a format map storage device configured to store a plurality of translation format maps;
a translation module in communication with the format map storage device, the translation module configured to receive a data item, translate the data item to a neutral format according to a first of the plurality of translation format maps, and translate the neutral format of the data item to a destination-party-specific format according to a second of the plurality of translation format maps; and
a document data base in communication with the translation module, the document database configured to store the neutral format of the data item.

34. The system of claim 33, further comprising:
a workflow coordinator configured to initiate processing of the received data item.

35. The system of claim 34, further comprising:
a product information database configured to store product information; and
a verification module in communication with the workflow coordinator and the product information database;
wherein the verification module is configured to compare product information included with the received data item and product information stored in the product information database.

36. The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a document viewing module; and

a style sheet storage device in communication with the document viewing module, the style sheet storage device configured to store a plurality of style sheets;

wherein the document viewing module is configured to graphically render the received data item according to a first of the plurality of style sheets.

337. The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a first edge adapter for communicating with a first client in a first client-native method;

a second edge adapter for communicating with a second client in a second client-native method; and

an internal adapter coupled to the first edge adapter and the second edge adapter, the internal adapter configured to communicate with the first edge adapter according to the first client-native method and to communicate with the second edge adapter according to the second client-native method.

382 The system of claim 37 wherein the internal adapter is further configured to communicate with the translation module according to an internal method.